



COPS Fact Sheet

Community Oriented Policing Services

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Training and Technical Assistance

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 authorized \$8.8 billion over six years to add 100,000 police officers to communities across the country and to promote the implementation of community policing. To meet this goal, Attorney General Janet Reno created the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) in the U.S. Department of Justice and entrusted COPS with the responsibility for putting the additional officers on the streets and providing training and technical assistance to the nation's police departments for implementing community policing strategies.

A substantial investment in training and technical assistance is facilitating the transition to community policing. The COPS Office is dedicated to providing training and technical assistance for agencies receiving COPS grants and their communities. The COPS Office is committing resources to the field that promote and support the move by law enforcement to Community Policing.

Training and Technical Assistance

In 1995, the COPS Office training and technical assistance efforts were accomplished primarily through an agreement with the Community Policing Consortium. The Community Policing Consortium pools the expertise of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and the Police Foundation to provide a broad spectrum of community policing training and technical assistance to COPS grantees. The

Consortium's expertise is unique because it combines training in the basics of community policing with specialized training and technical assistance in the core activities of community policing. These include problem solving, community partnerships, cultural diversity and strategic planning for organizational change. Since working with COPS, the Consortium has provided training to over 2,500 policing agencies.

By 1996, the successful COPS hiring initiatives generated increased requests for a stronger emphasis on community policing training. As a result, the Training and Technical Assistance Division (T&TA) in the COPS Office was expanded to meet these needs. As an initial investment to support the work

of the Consortium as well as accelerate the advancement of community policing, COPS provided a limited number of grants to public safety, educational and community organizations and to local projects administered by U.S. Attorneys' Offices. These efforts broadened the scope of training innovations to include changes in how training is developed and delivered and also initiated community policing training and technical assistance nationwide.

What is Community Policing?

Community policing is a policing philosophy that promotes and supports organizational strategies to address the causes and reduce the fear of crime and social disorder through problem-solving tactics and community-police partnerships.

In 1997, the T&TA Division introduced a new initiative, The Regional Community Policing Institute Program.

Regional Community Policing Institutes

In 1997, the COPS Office funded the creation of Regional Community Policing Institutes, which develop and deliver community policing training to interested departments

throughout a designated region. Institutes have the latitude to experiment with new ideas to challenge and improve traditional training curricula and to develop curricula that supports community policing and will sustain it in the future. The Institutes also provide a wide range of specialized training opportunities that are designed to ensure that community policing is a permanent part of law enforcement.

The RCPIs provide training to law enforcement agencies, community members, and local government officials in areas such as: problem solving, community partnerships, ethics and integrity, and violence prevention.

The RCPIs also participate in other innovative training initiatives such as the Indian Country Crime Initiative Circle Project, and the Community Policing to Reduce Domestic Violence training.

COPS T&TA also provides funding for the Community Conflict Resolution and Mediation Project and the COPS Linkages Mentor Site Network.

For more information on training and technical assistance programs, call the toll-free Response Center at 1-800-421-6770, or visit the COPS web site at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/cops/>.